

Faculty attend convention, students get Friday off

Most students will enjoy an unexpected respite from classes tomorrow while more than 100 instructors, administrators and staff are in Austin for the annual Texas Junior College Teachers Association Convention. Classes will continue as scheduled for those whose instructors have not announced a break.

TJCTA, the only Texas organization for all junior college personnel, dedicates its members to the pursuit of excellence in teaching and to the advancement to community and junior college education in Texas, said Psychology Instructor Rebecca Laughlin-Foster.

Convention goers will attend section meetings in their teaching or work areas, examine textbooks, elect state officers and socialize with fellow teachers.

"We get a lot of new ideas for improvements in our teaching methods from discussions with fellow teachers," said Laughlin-Foster who is TJCTA secretary.

One of 62 institutional members which make up TJCTA, TJC is

heavily represented at the convention.

"We are the largest single campus represented. We will probably have more than 100 members attending from this campus alone," said Laughlin-Foster.

The TJCTA constitution and bylaws specify rules for meetings, membership, election and officers' duties, voting procedures and selecting committees.

During this academic year, TJC has been strongly represented in elective and appointed offices.

Besides Laughlin-Foster, four faculty staffed committees.

Counselor Mary Peddy was resolutions committee vice chairperson.

Mathematics Instructor Joe Tom Rodgers and Drafting Instructor Bryan Ralph were chairmen of auditing and engineering graphics and technology committees, respectively.

Mid-Management Instructor Nell Warren was president of the Texas Junior College Management

Educators Association Committee. Dr. Bob Gaines, dean of the division of business and industrial technology, will talk to this group at 11 a.m. Friday. His topic is "Education vs. Training."

The Texas Association for Staff, Program and Organizational Development will meet during the Convention. English Instructor Carolyn Hendon is co-arranger of the TASPOD program.

"It means a lot for us to have people on these committees from our campus," said Laughlin-Foster. "Our representatives have proved to be hard workers."

These instructors not only juggle home and family responsibilities and teaching obligations, but they find time to participate in TJCTA, she said.

English/Journalism Instructor Sarah Harrison said she enjoys going to this convention because it gives faculty a chance to learn, teach, relax and have fun, all at the same time.



staff photo

Playwright Scott Finley

'A Little Theater' to bring dream to life

By BILLIE SEBRING
staff writer

One TJC journalism graduate's aspirations will be realized when Actor's Repertory Theatre presents the world premiere of "A Little Theater" written by Scott Finley.

Performances are Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons for four weekends beginning Feb. 21, in the ART Theater on the second floor of Interfirst Plaza Building. For tickets and reservations, dial 597-3286.

"A Little Theater," a comedy-farce, is a play within a play. It is the story of a small Oklahoma theater group which goes on tour and the many problems they encounter," said Finley.

"One of the characters is a tone-deaf guitarist and another is a woman who falls in love with a man who does not return her love, but falls in love with a married woman. The group end the tour practically hating each other," he said.

Finley, news producer at KLTU, has been involved in writing and acting since junior high school. At that

time, he says, he knew he wanted to be a writer.

It is also largely from his experiences in the theater that he wrote the play.

The author has no time to be bored. In addition to his work at KLTU, Finley is an avid reader, collects antique trains and spends much of his time working on his '72 Cutlass.

Though Finley says he reads all different authors and all different styles, he prefers adventure stories and likes adventure in life, too. In 1976, just out of high school, he went on an around-the-world antique car trek, from Istanbul, Turkey, to San Francisco. Finley admits it was a long haul.

Finley majored in journalism at TJC 1976-1978 and edited the TJC News one semester. He also wrote a column during his student days.

He credits his wife with much of his achievement.

"It has been said that behind every man there is a woman. I think it should be beside every man there is a woman. That woman is my wife. She is like a freshly opened bottle of champagne," said Finley.

Diverse theories explain origin of Valentine's Day traditions

By DONNA RIFFLE
assistant editor

Since the early 1400s, people have observed what has come to be known as St. Valentine's Day.

Although Americans didn't begin to acknowledge the day until about the time of Civil War, the first commercial valentine appeared on the market in 1800, starting the tradition of lovers and sweethearts exchanging tokens of affections on this day.

Many theories suggest how Valentine's Day which falls on February 14 got both its name and date.

Throughout rural Europe, one explanation claimed that February 14 was the day the birds began to mate during the Middle Ages.

Geoffrey Chaucer, in his "Palamand of Foules", refers to this day. "For this was Seynt Valentyne's (sic) day, when every foul (sic) cometh their to choose his mate."

Another theory about the connection between St. Valentine's day and lovers may have grown out of the similarity between the name of the Saint and the Norman word galatin, which means a lover of women.

In Ancient Rome on Feb. 14, the day before the feast of the Lupercalia, single women put their names in a box from which the men would later draw to choose his partner for the rest of the festival.

Some people believe the first person of the opposite sex that one meets on Valentine's Day is destined to become his or her true love.

One way to discover this person's identity is to sleep on a pillow that has five bay leaves pinned to it.

Nowadays, of course, most people don't practice these customs or beliefs, and prefer to send their loved ones a card or candy.

Remembrances come in all types. Those of the more romantic taste always send flowers and beautiful cards,, but for those with a flair for the unusual or the humorous can find cards to suit. It was not always this way.

In the late 19th Century, when the first comic valentines appeared, they were not accepted because they were considered vulgar and improper.

Observing Valentine's Day has become a tradition that almost everyone practices.

"It's a day that you can express your love to your loved ones," says Sophomore Diane Pollard, "with your husband, children, parents, sisters and brothers."

"Next to Christmas, it's my favorite holiday," said Sophomore Dene English. "I make heart shaped cookies for my three children and I usually get a card for my husband. My mother used to send out boxes of candy, and now the tradition had fallen back on me."

Some have different thoughts. "I have a very cynical view of all occasions," said Sophomore John Fields. "I believe it's very commercialized."

Fields pointed out that in Tyler a dozen roses cost \$65. "I think it should be observed, but not for the sake of buying something."

Freshman Teresa Cantu agrees, saying, "It's a holiday which should be observed with someone special or with friends."

Valentine's Day, with or without gifts, remains a day for lovers and sweethearts.

Perhaps the most famous Valentine of all is the one we learned as children.

"Roses are red, And so are you."
Violets are blue, Signed simply,
Sugar is sweet Guess who?

Love letter solves dilemma for Valentine's Day shopper

By PAMELA BURGESS
assistant editor

Tomorrow is Valentine's Day, a day for loving and being loved. Like everyone else, I have agonized over what to buy for my valentines, but finally, after careful deliberation, I chose the perfect gift for my sweetheart. Now, I'm left with the task of what to send my parents.

Every year I send them a five-pound box of chocolates and a card with words written by someone else but this year is going to be different. They will get a love letter.

Mom and Dad, I love both of you more than either of you will ever know. We've been through a great deal over the past 19 years, haven't we?

From midnight feedings and learning to ride a bike, to braces and putting me through these two years of college--my dreams are becoming reality. Thank you.

Daddy, even when you worked all those long hours, I knew it was for Mom and Tanya and me. You've always had the patience and quiet understanding that helped me grow. I know it must have been hard just to laugh when I talked too much and scared the fish away, or when I tangled my line in the treetops. I

remember all the football games you watched, rain or shine, because I was a cheerleader. I love you for being just what you are--my daddy.

Mom, it is really hard for me to express all the love I feel for you. My education began the day you brought me home from the hospital and I've never stopped learning from you. You are my greatest teacher yet.

I know I've been a handful at times, but even when I was "grounded until age 30," I knew you loved me more than anything or anyone else.

This is my very special way of saying thank you for being room mother, chaperone, disciplinarian, mother, critic, seamstress, cook, chauffeur, confidante but, most of all, for being my best friend--I love you, Mom.

So now that I've given you your Valentine's Day gift for 1986, you can both wipe away the tears and lovingly put a copy of this in the trunk with all the other mementoes and memories we've collected over the years. I love you, Mom and Daddy. Happy Valentine's Day.

Class reacts to editorial

Dearest Editor,

I strongly disagree with the piece of trash that was written in your paper that you call an article. Everyone knows who Duvalier is but nobody cares. It hurts me to know that your writers, paragons of truth that they are, would print such garbage. Better luck next time.

Your X reader
Ricky Wyatt

To The Editor:

I feel the recent editorial on college student's ignorance concerning current events is at best, a hasty generalization. The article treats all college students as if they were recent victims of a lobotomy. I agree that many people are unaware of the world around them, but more people know what is going on than don't. Any student in a Sociology class are up to date on: the election in the philippines, the fall of the Haitian government, or the latest exploits of Khadafi. Not all college students are Mr. Potato Heads! Let's tell it like it is, not like we think it is.

Sincerely,
Randy Duke
Sophomore

Dear Editor:

I would like for you to be aware of the fact that there are those of us at TJC that are informed about the various social events here and abroad. I think it would be interesting as well as informative to

begin a weekly pole to ascertain the awareness of the average student at TJC. Possibly even personal interviews on specific subjects with 2 or 3 people at a time. Please give this serious thought.

TJC student,
Andrew L. Bryan

Dear TJC News:

Mrs. Laughlin-Foster told me to write this letter. In a recent editorial, it was stated that we students are not informed in world affairs. Here in Mrs. Laughlin-Foster's Sociology 213 class, we are well informed. We even know who Khadafy, Quaddafi, Kwadafy is, or however you want to spell it. You can bet that Marcos will win the election in the Philippines--even if Aquino has more votes, he will surely finagle something around. I would imagine that the odds are quite high that we will see a revolution in the Philippines.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely
H.J. Higginbotham President
Cumby High School former Student Association

Dear Editor:

This letter is written in response to the article written in last week's TJC news regarding the student's ignorance to current events. I strongly disagree with the article. I feel this way because I am in a Sociology class under Mrs. Foster, in which we discuss current events every

class period and are tested on them. This inclines us to read newspapers, magazines, and to watch the news.

I wish the people who write the articles in the paper would visit our class. They would find that their article is wrong!!! We, the students, are not ignorant! For instance, we are keeping up with the election in the Philippines between Marcos and Aquino, the battle between Texaco and Penzoil, and the current tragedy of the explosion of the space shuttle "Columbia".

Please print this letter. I know other people feel this way, and we want you to understand how we feel. We're NOT STUPID!!!

Mad Sociology Student--
Judy Ridge

Editor's note:

These letters are selected from those written by students in Sociology 213 taught by Rebecca Laughlin-Foster. At her request, most students submitted letters expressing their opinions about the Feb. 6 editorial, "Media can heighten student awareness." The editorial writer is a student in this class as Mrs. Laughlin-Foster pointed out to them.

Because many of the letters were unsigned, they could not be accepted for publication. As is stated in News policy on this page, letters from the college community are welcomed but must be signed. The letters are printed exactly as they were written.

Safety needs efforts of students, staff

Poorly lit campus areas, lots which allow only faculty parking and the small size of the night police force have caused many students to become concerned with their safety while crossing campus at night.

Although the college is presently evaluating campus lighting (see night safety article; page 3), students continue to face the problem of darkness on campus.

One location that continually comes into conversation when students discuss lighting is the open field between upper Genecov and Gentry Gym parking lots. Because upper Genecov is off limits to students, many park in the Gentry Gym lot and walk across the dimly-lit field after their night classes. They say this frightening.

The parking rules distributed to students during registration provide students may park after 5 p.m. in any faculty lot except upper Genecov. Students often ignore the Genecov exception and return to find \$10 pink tickets attached to their windshields.

Students often feel taken advantage of when their vehicles are ticketed in this lot. Posting signs on the campus alerting students to locations which are restricted at night and the times faculty parking restrictions are lifted could help solve this problem.

Another situation which alarms students is the lack of availability of TJC police officers at night. Only two officers patrol the spacious grounds during the night hours. Perhaps to lessen the problem, fraternities or other campus organizations could encourage members to patrol the college grounds and escort female students to dorms or cars.

In addition to these administrative and staff actions, students should take the initiative to better prepare themselves for obstacles they may face. Students can enroll in self defense classes offered throughout the community, carry mace or other protection and walk in pairs.

The alleviation of the current problem calls for the joint effort of both students and administration.

TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE NEWS

Campus news for 50 years

The Tyler Junior College News, campus newspaper of Tyler Junior College, is published by journalism students weekly, except during examinations and holidays. Opinions expressed in the News are not necessarily those of the staff, adviser, or administration. The News accepts letters to the editor from the college community for possible publication. Letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number.

Advertising inquiries and letters may be addressed to: TJC News, P.O. Box 9020, Tyler, Tx. 75711; or delivered to Potter Hall 204.

The editor reserves the right to select and edit letters in accordance with college policy, legal requirements and length.

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THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT—Night students leave class from Wagstaff Gym only to confront the darkness and danger lurking in the shadows.

Night safety concerns administration, students

By **SHELLY ARMOR**
staff writer

Campus safety, especially at night, concerns everyone from TJC administrators to students.

The Executive Council has appointed a committee to evaluate and report on campus lighting. Dr. Raymond Van Cleef, vice president for educational and student services, said all campus areas would be examined not only for safety, but to insure good visibility at night.

Campus Safety Director Bill Crowe will chair the committee which includes Physical Plant Director Bill Parker and Horticulture Coordinator Wayne Pianta. Parker said the committee will meet next week to tour the campus and decide what needs to be done.

Crowe said even though the campus is well lighted, he is always concerned with student safety. He encourages students, faculty or staff to send him their suggestions about campus lighting.

Students should take precautions on campus at night, said Crowe. They should stay in well-lighted areas and travel in pairs when possible.

Although two police officers on duty all night spend the majority of their time on patrol, Crowe pointed out, "They can't be everywhere at once."

When self-defense and rape

seminars have been offered in the past, attendance was low, but TJC is willing to offer these again if enough students are interested.

In the year and-a-half he has been at TJC, Crowe said, no rapes have been reported.

A statewide report on campus rapes show most rapes are committed by an acquaintance of the victim, Crowe said.

Marrette Smith, screening and referral coordinator for East Texas Crisis Center, agreed with Crowe that campus rapes are most often by acquaintances. She said that these types of rapes are harder for the victim to report.

Training sessions in self-defense and awareness of rape possibility are fundamental keys to rape prevention, Smith said. Women should always walk with their heads up in a self-assured manner, she advised.

Smith advocates "carrying some type of weapon in your hand when walking alone." A woman's purse is a virtual armory, she pointed out, concealing weapons such as keys, pens and, deadliest of all, a nail file.

Another hint is to "look under your car as you approach it, as well as in the back seat," she said.

In the event of a rape, the victim should not be ashamed and should seek help as soon as possible. The Crisis Center hot-line, which is answered 24 hours a day, can be reached by calling 595-5591, Smith advised.

Student opinions on campus safety vary.

Business students Pat Pitts and Laura Siler said lighting is adequate and they do not usually feel uncomfortable walking across the campus at night.

Karen Lambert disagrees. "Although there is ample lighting close to the buildings, when you get close to the street or in a back parking lot, it gets pretty scary," she said.

Library assistants Martha Looney and Judy Kinser think the front of the campus is well lighted and safe, but say, "the back lots are rather dark and spooky." They usually ask a man in the audio-visual department to escort them to their cars.

Management major Sue Amburn said she used to be afraid to be on campus at night, but after seeing a self-defense film, she now feels attitude is the key to preventing attacks. She says women should project self-assurance when walking alone.

Campus Safety Officer Lynn Guthrie reassures students and faculty that all campus policeman are certified officers and, just like the city police, they are on campus to protect and serve. A guard will always be on duty, and he said they spend their time on patrol.

"In case of emergency," he says, "you should call 531-2263. This number is posted on all campus phones."

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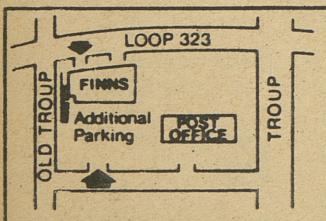
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Campus Briefs

Kisses to benefit MDA

All modern-day Don Juans and Marilyn Monroes need to get set to pucker up for tomorrow's Kissing Contest to benefit Muscular Dystrophy Association. Couples need to come to Mike Carter Field ready to kiss through the three-minute event, said MDA spokesman Skip Pitcher. This will be fun for everyone.

Cost is \$5 per person which includes a Big Kiss Visor and "Kiss Kits." Radio station Y99 is co-sponsoring the event.

Contest sponsors said they hope to gain enough entrants to set a record for the number of people kissing at one time.

Circle K to observe week

This week Circle K, the largest collegiate service organization in the world, observes International Circle K Week here. The observance is to promote service on campus and in the community by individuals and groups, said Circle K President Polly Yeager.

Chartered here in 1984, Circle K has conducted food drives, fund-raising projects, visited nursing homes and attended conventions to develop leadership skills.

Yeager encourages new members to join Circle K which meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Student Center.

"Being a part of Circle K is a great way to meet people, make friends and achieve a greater awareness of the needs of others. It's doing something worthwhile in your life and for others," she said.

Senate seeks candidates

TJC needs a few good men and women to run in the March 11-12 student elections, said Student Activities

Director Emma Lou Prater.

Senate and Sophomore Class offices of president, vice president and secretary are up for grabs, Prater said, and all students are encouraged to participate.

Students interested in running for office need to pick up petitions at the Student Activities Office in the Student Center and return them by Feb. 28.

Besides being of value to the individual later, it is fun and adds an interesting aspect to the student's education, she said.

Besides a good moral character, the candidate should possess an interest in student government and enjoy being a leader, Prater said.

Fest to offer cafe, guitarists

A family of classical guitarists, Los Romeros, will perform for the Feb. 25 Foreign Language Festival. The concert which starts at 8 p.m. in Wise Auditorium is part of the Student Enrichment Series.

Los Romeros, a father and three sons, will play many selections for festival guests. Some are: "Fantasia," "Prelude from La Revoltosa" and "Estampas."

"Collectively, they are the only classical guitar quartet of real stature in the world today; in fact, they virtually invented the format," according to The New York Times.

TJC students will be admitted free with an ID card. Tickets for others, \$5 for adults and \$2 for non-TJC students, may be purchased in the Business Office, Music Program office, at the Melody Shop in Tyler and at the door.

Prior to the concert Foreign Language Coordinator John Hayes and Language Instructor Elaine Graybill will host "Cafe Castilla."

High achievers gain recognition

High achievers conquered the elements as well as time in the final session of the fall 20-minute walk-jog-run, sponsored by the health and physical education division.

The walk-jog-run is usually held twice during each fall and spring semester, but this year will be different.

"Because spring schedule is so divided up with holidays and special occasions, we have decided to forego the walk-jog-run," said Physical Education Instructor Dr. Nancy Laird. "It will be held again next fall."

"I am pleased with the enthusiasm this year. So many did so well and showed improvement between the first and second run in the fall," said Laird.

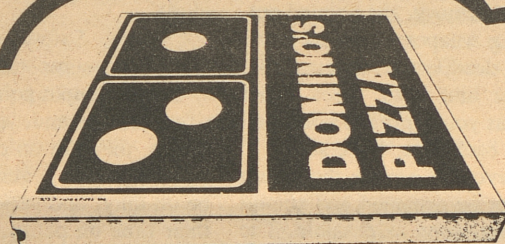
Overall winners are Cindy Smith with 3860 yards and Cletus Chan with 5720 yards. They, along with

Lisa Bassett, Kathy Swann, Kelly Weikel, Penny Trotti, David Brown, Joe Bolton, Tony Butler and Rozell Jones were awarded gold High Achievement Fitness Club t-shirts.

"So many did so well and showed improvement between the first and second run."

The top 25 men and top 25 women from the two sessions were treated to refreshments at a December recognition party in Wagstaff Gym.

"All participants are commended for their outstanding achievements," said Laird.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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I love you
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 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.
 Tae'



HAPPY TO BE WED TO
 THE GIRL OF MY DREAMS.
 LOVE RONNIE

Daryl,
 Thanks for our friendship.
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Kathy

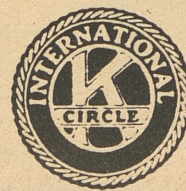
To Adam, Rachel, Aaron & Jacob:

You're the best kids in the world!

Deborah

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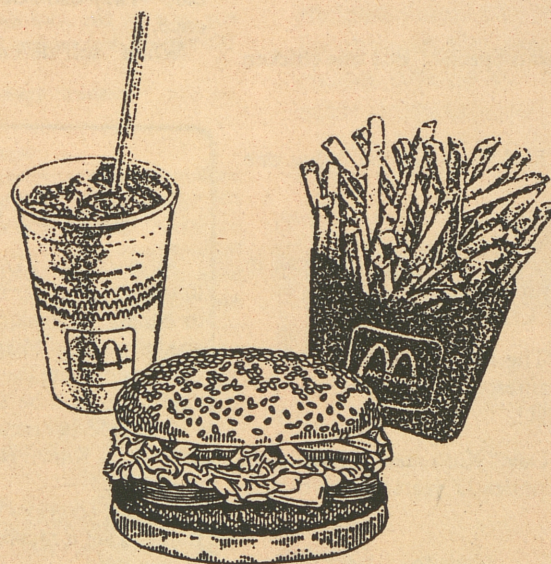
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Jeff,
 Happy Valentine's Day
 Babe.

I Love You.
 Andrea

Daddy (Jeffery),
 I wuv you!
 Key Yang



Happy V.D., Kent Jones!!
 I love you! Lil sis, Kim.

To my two favorite Valentines
 Buster King and Scott Hauser.
 Love Ya
 your big sis, Lisa.



This Valentine's
 a little rhyme
 That says GrandKids
 are tops.
 To Charlie, Jessica,
 and Heather:
 Much love from
 Nanny and Pop.

Happy Valentine's Day
 Charlie and Jessica
 I Love You,
 Mom



Happy Valentine's Day to our
 little Tater.
 Love, Momma and Daddy